

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 7688

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES: AGENDA
FOR MEETING JULY 1-2

REF: STATE 147285

FOLLOWING IS SECRETARIAT'S ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR FIRST
MEETING OF HLGC:

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK
4. DISCUSSIONS OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES
5. 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6. PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AT ITS 12TH SPECIAL SESSION (18TH JULY)
7. OTHER BUSINESS

NOTES:

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ITEM 3:

1. THE MANDATE OF THE GROUP IS GIVEN IN THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES /C(75)91(FINAL)/. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS OF THE GROUP'S TASK EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON 28TH AND 29TH MAY, AS SUMMARIZED IN THE COMMUNIQUE THERE ADOPTED /C(75)72(FINAL), PARAGRAPHS 9 TO 12/. BROADLY SPEAKING, THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP'S TASK IS TO DEVELOP A MORE ACTIVE AND BROADLY BASED APPROACH TO COMMODITY PROBLEMS.

2. THE GROUP'S TASK DOES NOT CALL FOR IT TO MAKE DETAILED PREPARATIONS FOR THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA IN WHICH DISCUSSIONS ON COMMODITY MATTERS WILL TAKE PLACE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' BUT SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THOSE MEETINGS AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RESULTANT URGENCY OF FORMULATING PROPOSALS FOR CONCRETE ACTION.

3. THE FOLLOWING CAN BE CITED IN THIS RESPECT:

- A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS;
- THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1975. (THIS SESSION APPEARS AS A SEPARATE ITEM IN THE AGENDA - ITEM 5);
- THE SECOND AND THIRD PARTS OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, IN JULY AND DECEMBER 1975;
- THE 4TH UNCTAD CONFERENCE, IN MAY 1976.

4. THE GROUP MIGHT HAVE A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW TO ORGANIZE ITS WORK, HAVING REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR, AND IN PARTICULAR ON ITS TIMETABLE. IN THIS RESPECT, IN THE VERY SHORT TERM TWO MEETINGS MIGHT BE ENVISAGED IN JULY, ONE IF POSSIBLE BEFORE 18TH JULY

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(WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION WILL MEET) AND THE OTHER AFTER THAT DATE, I.E. TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

5. AS REGARDS COORDINATION WITH THE WORK OF THE AD HOC HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT THE GROUP IN QUESTION HELD A FIRST MEETING ON 10TH

JUNE AND WILL MEET AGAIN ON 7TH AND 8TH JULY. ITS PROGRAM OF WORK WAS CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION ON 11TH JUNE. IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT COMMODITY ISSUES WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE SOLELY IN THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES BUT THAT, GIVEN THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THESE ISSUES IN RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THEY SHOULD BE

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TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AT A LATER STAGE BY THE GROUP DEALING WITH THOSE RELATIONS AS A WHOLE.

ITEM 4:

6. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES:

- TO REDUCE MARKET INSTABILITY (AVOIDANCE OF

EXCESSIVE PRICE FLUCTUATIONS; PROMOTION OF A BETTER
BALANCE BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION);

- TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT AND
SECURITY OF SUPPLIES;

- TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE MARKET OUTLETS AND LOCAL
PROCESSING OF COMMODITIES;

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- TO CONSIDER THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
MECHANISMS TO STABILIZE THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

7. THE GROUP MIGHT, WITHOUT EXCLUDING DISCUSSIONS OF
ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES, NOW TURN ITS ATTENTION MORE
DIRECTLY TO POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS INTENDED TO ATTAIN
THESE OBJECTIVES.

8. VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS FOR POLICY ACTION HAVE BEEN PUT
FORWARD BY MEMBER COUNTRIES, IN PARTICULAR BY THE PRIME
MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN HIS SPEECH TO THE
HEADS OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE US SECRE-
TARY OF STATE IN KANSAS CITY; AND ALSO DURING OECD MEET-
INGS, IN PARTICULAR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MINIS-
TERIAL LEVEL. IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE
CE(75)6 PART II IS DEVOTED TO POLICY ISSUES AND INSTRU-
MENTS. OTHER SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD,
ESPECIALLY IN THE UNCTAD.

9. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A BROADLY BASED APPROACH WHILE
TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE VARYING CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFER-
ENT PRODUCTS THE WAY IN WHICH THE GROUP MIGHT TACKLE THE
WORK COULD BE:

- TO SELECT THE RANGES OF PRODUCTS TO BE CON-
SIDERED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, USING VARIOUS CRITERIA
SUCH AS ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL URGENCY, IMPORTANCE OF
COMMODITIES TO NATIONAL ECONOMIES, CONVERGENCE OF
INTEREST, ETC....;

- TO DISCUSS THE POLICIES WHICH WOULD BE MOST
APPROPRIATE, HAVING REGARD TO BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF
THE PRODUCTS AND RESULTANT PROBLEMS;

- TO SELECT A NUMBER OF GENERAL ISSUES ON WHICH
DISCUSSION COULD FOCUS, E.G. POSSIBILITIES AND CONTENT
OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, PROBLEMS OF AND METHODS OF
FINANCING BUFFER STOCKS, COMPENSATORY OR STABILIZING

DEVICES FOR EXPORT RECEIPTS;

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- TO COMPARE THE POLICIES ENVISAGED WITH THOSE
DEMANDED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

10. ARISING FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE GROUP COULD
ALSO DECIDE WHAT FACTUAL DATA AND ANALYSES WILL BE RE-
QUIRED, AND THE WORK WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN ACCORD-
INGLY BY THE SECRETARIAT OR BY DELEGATIONS.

ITEM 5:

11.. AS WAS INDICATED UNDER ITEM 3 ABOVE, THE GROUP'S
TASK IS NOT TO CARRY OUT DETAILED PREPARATION FOR THE
7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS; SUCH PREPARATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CUSTOM-
ARY COORDINATION MEETINGS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SHORT-TERM
ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP MIGHT FURNISH ELEMENTS OF A
POSITIVE ATTITUDE FOR ADOPTION BY MEMBER COUNTRIES DURING
THIS SPECIAL SESSION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR
CONCRETE ACTION. THE GROUP MIGHT EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS
SUBJECT.

ITEM 6:

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12. THE GROUP SHOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR AGREEING ON THE FORM AND CONTENT OF ITS PRELIMINARY REPORT. IN PARTICULAR, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE GROUP AS REGARDS ITS PROGRAM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF ITS WORK, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

I. FROM NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS

1. SPEECH BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AT
KANSAS CITY, MAY 13, 1975
2. PROPOSALS BY UK PRIME MINISTER AT CMND 6061
KINGSTON, JAMAICA (INCORPORATED
IN BOOKLET "WORLD ECONOMIC INTER-
DEPENDENCE AND TRADE IN COMMODITIES")

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(A) COUNCIL

3. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE GROUP
C(75)91(FINAL)
4. MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE C(75)72(FINAL)

(B) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION

5. OECD POLICIES IN THE AREA OF CE(75)5
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS -
MAIN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSIONS
6. INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS CE(75)6
7. SUMMARY RECORD OF 10TH SESSION
CE/M(75)7(PROV.)

(C) DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

8. COMMODITY MARKETS AND AID DAC/BA(75)3

POLICIES

9. SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETING OF DAC
WORKING PARTY ON ASSISTANCE
REQUIREMENTS, 21ST MAY, 1975
DAC/BA/M(75)2(PROV.)

(D) TRADE COMMITTEE

10. PROBLEM AREAS IN THE FIELD OF TC(74)18
COMMODITY TRADE

III. UNCTAD

11. REVIEW OF RESULTS OF INTENSIVE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTA-
TIONS ON COMMODITIES TD/B/C.1/161
12. AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR
COMMODITIES TD/B/498
TD/B/C.1.166
AND ADDENDA
13. INDEXATION OF COMMODITIES TD/B/503
AND ADDENDA
TD/B/C.1/168
14. REPORT OF THE 8TH SESSION TD/B.543
OF THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMODITIES

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IV. DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY OECD IN CONNECTION
WITH UNCTAD/UN SESSIONS

15. LIST OF AREAS AND CONCRETE C(75)86
QUESTIONS (GROUP OF 77)
16. PREPARATIONS FOR 8TH SESSION TFD/TD/813,
OF UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON 824 AND 832
COMMODITIES
17. RESULTS OF 8TH SESSION OF TC(75)7
COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES

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